

By the Numbers Waste Isolation Pilot Plant

The Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP) is a Department of Energy facility designed to safely isolate defense-related transuranic (TRU) waste from people and the environment. WIPP, which began waste disposal operations in 1999, is located 26 miles outside of Carlsbad, New Mexico. Waste temporarily stored at sites around the country is shipped to WIPP and permanently disposed in rooms mined out of an ancient salt formation below the surface. TRU waste destined for WIPP consists of clothing, tools, rags, debris, residue and other disposal items contaminated with radioactive elements — mostly plutonium.



540,000

cubic feet per minute. WIPP's new permanent underground ventilation system will increase airflow.

By 2030

approximately 25,000 cubic meters of TRU waste is anticipated to be emplaced at WIPP.

24 hours/day

shipments are tracked and monitored around the clock by satellite.

2,150 feet

depth of disposal rooms from the surface. By comparison, if WIPP were a building, it would be the second tallest in the world.

13,506

shipments safely transported more than 15 million loaded miles.



272,864

containers emplaced in the WIPP underground.

Over 73,300 M³

of waste disposed in the underground mine (Total Land Withdrawal Act Volume).

7

waste disposal rooms in each disposal panel measuring 300 feet long, 33 feet wide and 13 feet high.

1,500

people employed at WIPP.

119,013

metric tons of salt mined in the west mains. Mining in Panel 8 is complete.



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